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# 4 Arrested in Tokyo Spy Case

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TOKYO, Wednesday, May 20 — Four Japanese, including an employee at a United States air base, were arrested Tuesday night and charged with passing technical documents of American military aircraft to a Soviet official.

Police officials said today that the air base employee, who worked in a technical library, had stolen the documents in March and sold them to an accomplice. These were passed to other Japanese who, in turn, relayed them to Soviet officials, the police said.

According to news reports, the four men were also suspected of providing technical documents to Chinese officials.

The Tokyo police said they had arrested Hiromi Date, a counselor at the China Technical Center in Tokyo, as he tried to pass documents in a park to V. B. Aksenov, an official at the Soviet Trade Representative Office here. The documents, the authorities said, included technical orders for F-16 fighter planes.

After arresting Mr. Date, the police said, they raided the homes of the other three Japanese and arrested them after finding more documents describing military aircraft.

Mr. Aksenov was reported to have left Japan this morning.

Besides Mr. Date, the police arrested Hiroshi Osumi, who worked at the American air base in Yokota, west of Tokyo; Masateru Tachibana, described as a military affairs expert; and Sadao Goto, a trading company executive.

United States military authorities said that they had cooperated with the Japanese investigators and that the inquiry was continuing.

It was not immediately clear how serious the security breach was. An American official in Tokyo said of the base employee that "normally he would not have had access to high classified material."

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